



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 12, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 7 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 3.2 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 6 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 103 billion ton-miles, 2.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 7 totaled 427,991 cars, 1.2 percent below 1980, and 3.5 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.9 percent in the East, and 1.2 percent in the South, but down 5.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 16,232 cars, or 17.1 percent, and grain 3,062 cars, or 9.5 percent. Eighteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended January 31 totaled 33,808 cars, down 6.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,317 trailers and/or containers, 3.2 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 5 weeks of the year was 145,449 cars, 9.4 percent lower than last year, and 262,355 trailers and/or containers, down 9.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 02/07/81:

	Loadings in Week ended February 7, 1981			Change from Corresponding Week 1980		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars			Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	35,422	I	3,062	9.5	I	3,716	11.7
Other farm products	3,736	D	1,026	21.5	D	353	8.6
Metallic ores	24,765	D	500	2.0	D	720	2.8
Coal	111,080	I	16,232	17.1	D	7,065	6.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,382	D	1,725	14.2	D	520	4.8
Nonmetallic minerals	13,477	I	773	6.1	I	993	8.0
Grain mill products	16,077	D	2,819	14.9	D	563	3.4
Food and kindred products	16,958	D	2,084	10.9	D	222	1.3
Primary forest products	18,625	I	1,642	8.1	D	1,311	6.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,406	D	1,982	19.1	D	1,207	12.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,445	D	986	4.6	D	1,044	4.9
Chemicals and allied products	27,095	D	1,343	4.7	D	1,741	6.0
Petroleum products	6,100	D	712	10.5	D	332	5.2
Stone, clay and glass products	13,123	D	1,667	11.3	D	544	4.0
Coke	6,489	I	564	9.5	I	260	4.2
Metals and products	16,331	D	966	5.6	D	572	3.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,218	D	2,679	14.2	D	662	3.9
Waste and scrap materials	12,159	D	1,267	9.4	D	903	6.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,514	D	968	8.4	D	410	3.8
All other carloads	40,328	D	3,706	8.4	D	2,011	4.7
LCL traffic	261	I	37	16.5	D	83	24.1
Total Cars Loaded	427,991	D	5,404	1.2	D	15,294	3.5
Corresponding week of 1980	433,395						
	<u>1981</u>		<u>1980</u>		<u>% Change</u>		
Total Cars Loaded (6 weeks)	2,478,572		2,568,327		D		3.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):							
5 Weeks cumulative	85.7		84.2		I		1.8
Week ended February 7	<u>17.7</u>		<u>17.2</u>		<u>I</u>		<u>3.2</u>
6 Weeks cumulative	103.4		101.4		I		2.0